Movie Scores Certified For Time Travel

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff ©12.23.21

When time travel technology is first invented in the future, with the idea of fixing the past, the pitfalls of risking aberrations of some kind to the "present" are at first ignored. This leads to weirdnesses resulting from even the smallest variations sent into the past. When a lost hairclip is forwarded to a First Lady in the past, so as to avoid snide internet chatter about her sloppy hair one day, which had eventually led to a narrowly lost election, changing the world order, this has the unintended consequence of causing people in the future to have tails, somehow, through a complex series of events.

And so, meeting around a conference room table, tails manifest, an international committee determines that from now on certain time travel rules must be established, to avoid time travel effects such as this coming back to bite them. However, the rules don't exactly work, and at the next meeting everyone now has longer tails and five eyes. They are not pleased.

The international committee makes yet another attempt at establishing new time travel rules, once again designed to avoid such unintended aberrations in the "present". The new rules don't work either. These efforts continue, all failures, the committee becoming stranger and stranger.

Finally they arrive at something that actually seems to work: Time travel is restricted to movie scores. People throughout the past find themselves inexplicably hearing movie scores coming from some unknown source, including those living before movies even exist. These movie scores are intended to tip off people in historically pivotal moments, so that they will hopefully be able to figure out from these what to do to fix the past. Inexplicable, from-out-of-nowhere, tension building orchestration precedes what would have been the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, causing everyone who hears it to dart their eyes around apprehensively, feeling the tension in the music, which ultimately leads to the prevention of Lincoln's death. And so forth. All human history becomes permeated with movie scores at key moments. Meanwhile, the international committee of the "present", tails, extra eyes, etc. in place, exchange smiles all around. "It worked!" exclaims a member of the committee.

All of a sudden they all merge into composite entities, each comprised of two of them turned into one person, cutting the size of the committee in half. "Oh crap," says one. There's a pause. "Hey, let's try only sending hula hoops into the past!" says one. Each enthusiastically agrees, and so time travel is given another shot.

THE END